

FACTS ON ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT
LOANS ACT

This legislation amended under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) by:

Increasing annual and aggregate borrowing limits for unsubsidized Stafford Loans to undergraduate students;

delaying the start of repayment for parent borrowers of PLUS Loans;

extending eligibility for individuals with adverse credit to borrow PLUS Loans, under extenuating circumstances;

revising procedures for ensuring the availability of lender-of-last-resort, LLR, loans under the FFEL program;

temporarily authorizing the Secretary to purchase loans previously made under the FFEL program at no net cost to the Federal Government; and

expanding eligibility for aid provided through American Competitiveness, AC, Grants and Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent, SMART, Grants.

The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 also expresses a sense of Congress that institutions such as the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Reserve, and Federal Home Loan Banks, in consultation with the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, should consider using available authorities to assist in ensuring continued access to Federal student loans for students and their families; and that any action taken by these entities should not limit the Secretary's authority with regard to the LLR program, nor the Secretary's authority to purchase loans previously made under the FFEL program.

It also requires the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to evaluate the impact that increases in Federal student loan limits may have on tuition, fees, room and board, and on the borrowing of private, non-federal, student loans.

CONCLUSION

In this time of economic downturns, costly natural disasters, rising food and gas prices—families are focused on meeting their basic needs and having a hard time saving for educational expenses. Often times Federal loans are all families have to help their children go to college.

We cannot allow our institutions of higher learning to be inaccessible for the vast majority of our youth. This important piece of legislation gives our young people and their families the opportunity to not only dream of attending college but actually realize that dream. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6889.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6889.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1372) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and recognizing the partnership between the city of Omaha, its citizens, and the university to build a vibrant and dynamic community, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1372

Whereas the citizens of Bellevue and Omaha, Nebraska, worked together with vigor and determination during the early years of the 20th century to create a non-sectarian university where local high school graduates could receive a college education;

Whereas due to the fortitude of the Board of Trustees and the generosity of donors, the first student body consisting of 26 students gathered on September 14, 1909, in what was formerly the old Redick mansion at 24th and Pratt Streets to begin their college education at the University of Omaha;

Whereas in spite of numerous financial challenges, the University of Omaha never wavered from its commitment to its founders to produce well-rounded and informed students by offering coursework in foreign languages, history, ethics, sacred history, science, and other traditional subjects;

Whereas the University of Omaha's substantial and respected curriculum prompted the University of Nebraska to announce in the spring of 1910 that it would accept credits from the University of Omaha as equivalent to its own;

Whereas the Board of Trustees, realizing the need for expanded facilities and programs would not be met through voluntary donations, voted in 1929 to turn over the University of Omaha to the City of Omaha to establish a municipal university;

Whereas the World War II years were turbulent for the Nation and required many sacrifices, and students and faculty at the Municipal University of Omaha unselfishly united to support the war effort and their fellow students on active duty with a variety of activities, including replacing the traditional Homecoming bonfire with a scrap drive rally;

Whereas the Municipal University of Omaha, under the leadership of President Milo Bail, responded to the need for expansion due to a postwar boom in student enrollment that threatened to stress facilities and programs by erecting a number of buildings to accommodate the quickly increasing student population, including a field house, library, and student center;

Whereas the Municipal University of Omaha further responded to the needs of returning members of the military by participating in the Bootstrap Program, initiated by the Air Force in 1951, to encourage military personnel to finish degrees that had been started before the War;

Whereas the University Regents, with the goal of strengthening financial solvency as well as offering affordable tuition, agreed to merge with the University of Nebraska beginning July 1, 1968, a decision that has since been lauded as the greatest educational gain in the City's history;

Whereas the University continued to increase program offerings to students, including the development of doctoral programs such as a cooperative program in psychology and joint program in educational administration with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, independent programs in public administration and criminal justice, and through the generous support of individual donors, the Alumni Association, and the NU Foundation, the creation of numerous named professorships;

Whereas when a need arose for off-campus classrooms and a conference site to accommodate the business community, the University of Nebraska at Omaha worked diligently in both the public and private sectors to secure funding for the establishment of the Peter Kiewit Conference Center in downtown Omaha in 1980;

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Omaha, in partnership with private donors, demonstrated a continued commitment to providing outstanding facilities with the opening of the Durham Science Center in 1987, the Weber Fine Arts Building in 1992, and expansion of the Thompson Alumni Center in 2006;

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Omaha provides valuable resources and expertise to the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Business Development Center, which produces an annual economic impact of \$350,000,000 and serves 200 communities;

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Omaha established a Teacher's College in 1908 that produces educators who teach in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 73 other countries;

Whereas the University of Nebraska at Omaha worked with business leaders to establish the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering to help meet the employment needs of the Nation's technology and engineering firms, as well as offer students a premiere educational opportunity;

Whereas the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology, and Engineering has received accolades from many organizations, including the National Science Foundation and Carnegie Mellon; and

Whereas 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, with commemorations beginning October 8, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and calls upon citizens to observe such an anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(2) encourages State and local governments to recognize the partnership among the City of Omaha, its citizens, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha to build a vibrant and dynamic community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1372 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 1372, which celebrates the University of Nebraska at Omaha's 100 years of service and partnership between the City of Omaha and its citizens.

Founded in 1908, Omaha, Nebraska and Bellevue citizens worked together to create a nonsectarian university where local high school residents could receive a college education.

Starting with only 26 students in their first class, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has blossomed into an esteemed university. Today, the University enrolls almost 14,000 students and offers a diverse range of academic courses.

□ 1800

With only 71 undergraduate majors, 45 masters degree programs, 17 graduate certificates and six doctoral programs, UNO possesses a wide array of courses for its students. The school makes a tremendous social and financial impact on its students and city. Students receive a quality college education, and the school generates \$350 million per year for the community.

UNO's unique history speaks to its accepting and inclusive culture. UNO started off as the University of Omaha. Due to financial difficulties and the high number of students who wanted to attend, in 1929 the board of trustees voted to establish a municipal university. The newly named Municipal University of Omaha prospered and relocated to its final location on 60th and Dodge Streets in the fall of 1936.

Later the university regents agreed to merge with the University of Nebraska. As a result, University of Nebraska at Omaha was born. That merger created a more sustainable and affordable college education, a principle the school lives by today.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my full support for the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman who is the sponsor of House Resolution 1372 and an alumnus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as opposed to the University of Nebraska at New Orleans or something, such time as he may consume for this particular issue.

Mr. TERRY. I thank the gentleman, and I thank the committee leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor. I, of course, as the author, rise in support of H. Res. 1372, a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I do want to start off at the beginning to tell my friend from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that this is not the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Huskers. This

is the number-sixth-rated-in-the-Nation University of Nebraska at Omaha Division II football. That is a distinction that, once made, garnered a lot more supporters. So when it comes to voting, I want to make that distinction.

In October of 1908, 26 students gathered to form the first class at the University of Omaha, achieving the goal the city fathers decreed to create a nonsectarian university where local high school graduates could receive a college education. Over the tumultuous years ahead, the University of Omaha grew in size and reputation, outgrowing its original buildings and then relocating to its current home near Memorial Park in what was then the far west edge of the town and now known as "Midtown."

In time, the University of Omaha would be known as the Municipal University of Omaha and in 1968 would become part of the University of Nebraska system, developing doctoral programs in conjunction with the flagship campus in Lincoln, as well as a number of independent programs in the field of public administration and criminal justice. UNO, as it then would become to be known, would become known for its remarkable programs in engineering, IS&T, and technology fields that are housed in the Peter Kiewit Institute as well as the university's renowned aviation program.

Today the University of Nebraska at Omaha has a significant impact on eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, serving over 250 communities and contributing nearly \$300 million in economic impact to that area. With a current enrollment of nearly 15,000 students, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has grown significantly and in measurable ways. It has bettered the lives of the citizens of Omaha and has taken its place among some of the finest public universities of its size in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members to vote in favor of this resolution in recognition of a truly unique and outstanding educational institution as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in October of this year. And go Mavericks!

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers on this bill. But before I give up my time, I want to say to Congressman LEE TERRY that there's no doubt in my mind that the University of Nebraska is certainly one to be reckoned with, and the University of Texas Longhorns always have to think very, very hard and be very well prepared to be able to take those Nebraska Cornhuskers.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say a few words in support of this particular resolution that congratulates the University of Nebraska at Omaha in its 100th anniversary of its founding, which will be 100 years on September 19 of this year.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. TERRY, for introducing this resolution. I also have to clarify that he was not the alumnus. His wife is the alumna of this institution. And I want to recognize the contributions the University of Nebraska at Omaha has made to the education of the citizens of this Nation.

It was founded with just 26 students and now serves over 14,000. In the 2006-2007 academic year, the university awarded over 2,400 degrees to its students. The University of Nebraska at Omaha is nationally recognized for a strong academic program. Last year alone, the university was honored as one of the Best Colleges 2007 list, and the Best Midwestern College 2007 list and the Best Graduate Schools 2009 list, as published by "U.S. News & World Report." In addition, the College of Business Administration's masters in business in administration students rank in the top 5 percent nationally, while the undergraduate students ranked in the top 15 percent on the most recent standardized exam on business topics.

University of Nebraska at Omaha has graduated such notable alumni as Marlin Briscoe, Peter Fonda, and a couple of Senators. Despite that fact, it is still a good school. I would like to congratulate all of the students, the alumni, and past and present employees on all they have accomplished over the last 100 years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

While I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, our efforts to help these college students will still be incomplete if we don't recognize the factors that all colleges are facing. Our higher education system is being squeezed by the high energy costs, just as the rest of society is. Schools are being forced to limit their operations, to reduce the number of school days just to save on utility costs and save their students the price of a day's commute. I know in both regular education as well as secondary education that the budgets for those particular institutions are written very narrowly and that whenever there is an unusual spike in something like the cost of electricity and the cost of fuel, that it is taken out primarily either in the short term or the long-term from the funds that are available for the faculty and for teachers for their salaries. It is simply a fact of life that if we do not get control of this energy crisis that is burgeoning, every school district in this Nation, whether it be a secondary, elementary, public or private or university level, every one of those schools is going to have the costs that will be borne by the teachers either in suppressed salaries at the current time or suppressed salaries into the future. That is the price we are paying for our failure to try to grasp this particular concept.

The majority has been meeting behind closed doors to craft a bill to offer what seems to be, at least from leaks

coming out, more political cover than actual reform. I am reminded of the U.S. Senate. The U.S. House has always had galleries so that people could watch what is taking place. But at the very beginning of the United States, the Senate convened in a closed room and no one could see what was taking place in that particular Chamber. The first employee of the United States Senate was actually the Senate secretary, a protege of John Adams who held the job for 25 years. The second employee of the Senate was the doorkeeper whose responsibility was to make sure that the public and House Members did not enter into the Chamber of the United States Senate. In fact, the Senate went on at that time to establish a funding schedule that would pay all Members of Congress \$6 a day and Members of the Senate \$7 a day. They also established a rule that a secretary could take any communication to the House, but at least two House Members had to be responsible for taking any communication to the Senate.

Well, the doorkeeper turned into the Sergeant of Arms as time went on. And eventually the Senate broke down and decided to actually allow people to watch the proceedings on the floor. Yet once again we find ourselves in an amazingly similar situation where the most important issue of our time is what we do with this energy crisis, and yet the bill that is supposed to be debated this day, this week on the floor, supposed to be being heard in Rules Committee as we speak, has yet to be heard in any public forum, has not had any kind of public hearing, and has not had any kind of committee work. And my bets are still that there won't be a heck of a lot of amendments that will be allowed to that particular procedure, all of it done in secret and private and then unveiled on the floor.

That is not the way of good regular order. Regular order should allow public process and open vetting so that all ideas are explored and the best ideas are those that surface to the top. We are not doing that this week. And we vitally and desperately need to do that, or just go back to the days where we keep a couple of doorkeepers around so the wrong people are not allowed to participate in the process of the policy of the United States.

We need to do that. We need a real energy policy that looks good not on paper, but keeps vital American resources viable and usable, not under lock and key. The students of this college need that for their future. All students need that for their future. Teachers need that if their retirement and their salaries are going to be kept intact. All of us need that if this economy is going to be vibrant and move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have other speakers at this time, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I wish to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1372, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5938.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5938.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 1200, de novo;

H. Con. Res. 390, de novo;

H.R. 6889, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining

electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING MILITARY SUPPORT GROUPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1200, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1200, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 0, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 589]

YEAS—374

Abercrombie	Cannon	Drake
Ackerman	Cantor	Duncan
Aderholt	Capito	Edwards (MD)
Akin	Capps	Edwards (TX)
Alexander	Capuano	Ellsworth
Allen	Cardoza	Emanuel
Altmire	Carnahan	Emerson
Andrews	Carney	Engel
Baca	Carson	English (PA)
Bachmann	Carter	Eshoo
Bachus	Castle	Etheridge
Baird	Castor	Everett
Baldwin	Cazayoux	Fallin
Barrow	Chabot	Farr
Bartlett (MD)	Chandler	Fattah
Barton (TX)	Childers	Feeney
Bean	Clarke	Ferguson
Becerra	Clay	Filner
Berkley	Cleaver	Flake
Berman	Clyburn	Forbes
Berry	Coble	Fortenberry
Biggert	Cohen	Fossella
Blibray	Cole (OK)	Foster
Bilirakis	Conaway	Fox
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Frank (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Cooper	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (UT)	Costa	Frelinghuysen
Blackburn	Courtney	Gallegly
Blumenauer	Cramer	Garrett (NJ)
Blunt	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Boehner	Crowley	Giffords
Bono Mack	Cuellar	Gilchrest
Boozman	Cummings	Gillibrand
Boren	Davis (AL)	Gingrey
Boswell	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Boucher	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez
Boyd (FL)	Davis (KY)	Goode
Boyda (KS)	Davis, David	Goodlatte
Braley (IA)	Davis, Lincoln	Gordon
Broun (GA)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Brown (SC)	DeFazio	Graves
Brown-Waite,	DeGette	Grijalva
Ginny	Delahunt	Hall (NY)
Buchanan	DeLauro	Hall (TX)
Burgess	Dent	Hare
Burton (IN)	Dicks	Hastings (FL)
Butterfield	Dingell	Hastings (WA)
Buyer	Doggett	Hayes
Calvert	Donnelly	Heller
Camp (MI)	Doolittle	Hensarling
Campbell (CA)	Doyle	Herger